



# EMPIRE COIN COMPANY, INC.

Q. David Bowers, James F. Ruddy/Empire Building/Johnson City, N. Y. 13790/Tel. 607 729-6141

September 4, 1964

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
Attorney at Law  
400 Washington Avenue  
P. O. Box 14020  
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your note. Enclosed is the Auctori Plebis counterfeit. I think you will agree that all in all it is quite a deceptive one...of a caliber comparable to certain other of the sophisticated fakes you are now investigating. When you have finished photographing it please return it to me with, if possible, a nice photograph of the obverse and reverse. During my last trip to England I saw two of these pieces. During my next trip to England (in October) I will take note of any such fabrications which come my way... with the eventual view that such information can be correlated and used to expose the source.

With best personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

  
Q. David Bowers

QDB:rf  
Encl.

September 21, 1964

Mr. Q. David Bowers  
Empire Coin Company, Inc.  
252 Main St.  
Johnson City, New York

Dear Dave:

Your fake Auctori Fletis is returned herewith along with the small writeup of it which I made and which will be published in the November Numismatist. I also return the photographs I made of the fake as well as the photograph of the genuine piece. These will be with the article when it is published.

I certainly appreciate your cooperation in making this available to me for my study and hope that you will continue to be helpful in running this matter down.

I received a lovely letter from Mr. Peck and he is also anxious to run it down as he only knows about the Elephant Token matter and is very upset over that.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb



# EMPIRE COIN COMPANY, INC.

Q. David Bowers, James F. Ruddy/Empire Building/Johnson City, N. Y. 13790/Tel. 607 729-6141

September 25, 1964

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
400 Washington Avenue  
P. O. Box 14020  
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your letter and article. Personally, I do not believe that Mr. Peck is very familiar with fakes versus originals in the American Colonial series... as I have examined his coins and have seen very little in these series. His main specialty seems to be the strictly British issues.

I will certainly keep my eyes open during the next trip over and will report in due course anything interesting that comes my way. With best regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Q. David Bowers

QDB:cp



THE NUMISMATIST  
Official Magazine of the  
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION  
ELSTON G. BRADFELD, Editor  
P. O. Box 3491  
CHICAGO 54, ILLINOIS

9-26

Dear Eric:

Many thanks for the Auctori Plebis  
counterfeit story. Planning to run it in  
Nov., if possible.

Best personal regards

Cordially

*Bevan*

October 16, 1964

Mr. Richard Picker  
366 - P.O. Box  
Albertson, Long Island, New York

Dear Dick:

Thank you for the comments concerning the Elephant Token article. I will see if I can tone down the methods for exposing the forger, as you suggest.

Please tell me where Homer Hall advertised an uncirculated red Elephant Token at \$400. I donot understand how he could sell the coin to Anton as there might be some confusion and it might be Anton's coin he was trying to sell. His story with respect to me is somewhat inaccurate.

1. I do not sell coins.
  2. I don't know who Dan Griffin is and never had any dealings with him.
  3. I never parted with an Elephant Token in recent years.....
- and so it goes.

The Auctori Plebis article will be in the November 1st Numismatist. It is very short.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

Nov 14 1964

Dear Mr Newman,

I was much interested in your article in the "Numismatist" describing a heretofore unpublished variety of the Auctor Plebis. There is no doubt, from the details that you point out, that this is from a different die. However, there remains some question as to whether or not it is a recent fabrication. We should keep in mind that the Auctor Plebis itself is an evasive issue, falsely dated, and not issued by any authority. It was probably struck about 1745, the reverse figure being copied from a British type executed by Wyon in 1793.

In some details the new variety is more like the Wyon type than the so-called "original" Auctor Plebis. The anchor on the Wyon prototype is properly assembled. The edge of the bale is quite sharply delineated on the prototype. On the Wyon die the British shield on the figure's breast is quite sharp.

An article presenting my theory on the possible origin of the Auctor Plebis was published in the "Numismatic Review" of Sept 1943, p. 54. I would be pleased to loan you my copy of this issue, should you not have it in your library.

I was also much interested in George Fuld's article on the Washington 1783 cents, in which you collaborated

With best regards

Howard H Kurth

November 17, 1964

Mr. Howard H. Kurth  
557 Mott Street  
Schenectady, New York 12308

Dear Mr. Kurth

It was delightful to hear from you as we have dropped out of contact for many years.

I was glad to have your comments on the Auctori Plebis matter and want to reassure you that the piece written up is a recent fabrication. I will explain how these are made in my next article. The origin of this type of evasion is, as you so well promulgated in the Numismatic Review.

I want you to know that your article was in my pile of references in connection with writing up the Bungtown situation which, in due course, I will complete.

The matter of counterfeit halfpence has been a subject to which I have been devoted for twenty years and I think I have enough data to produce something worth while which will explode all the theories on Bungtown and other matters of speculation. The only serious thing I have ever written on the subject was in the 1957 American Numismatic Society Centennial.

Are you doing any further research on early American copper which you were so interested in over the years? If you are, I will be glad to give you any help which I can.

If you ever consider disclosing of any of your imitation halfpence or State copper pieces, I would certainly be most pleased to add them to my collection.

In any event, thank you for writing me and giving me the opportunity to reread your early study.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

See Article on  
Hudson River

Memorial River

Vol 1 No 2 Sept 1963

by Howard H. Smith.



Enlarge cut to  $1\frac{3}{4}$   
diameters

| < - 27 PICA - > |

→ DO NOT SET OUTLINE!

27 PICA WIDE

110 G. ZINC  $\frac{1}{2}$  TONE

BLICK TOGETHER IN SINGLE PLATE

SILHOUETTE



GENUINE ABOVE & FORGERY BELOW

510









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THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER

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P.O.Box 4411  
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

December 30, 1973

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6540 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

Attached is a photograph of a specimen that I thought you might be interested in seeing. It was sent to me by one of our CNL Patrons for possible publication. It is a AUCTORI PLEBIS, bust right, blank reverse -- see Crosby page 343.

Others have attributed the die as Atkins #8, but I do not have a copy of Atkins so I cannot say whether it is or is not. This is a copy of yet another photograph and there was no scale, so I have no idea as to the size of the specimen.

I would appreciate knowing your thoughts on the piece and whether it would be worthwhile to borrow it and make a good photograph for publication.

Best regards,

  
J.C. Spilman



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 9, 1974

Mr. J. C. Spilman  
The Colonial Newsletter  
P. O. Box 4411  
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

Dear Jim:

Re: Auctori Plebis


Your 12/30/73 letter as to the uniface Auctori Plebis is at hand. This piece is an evasion halfpence made in England about the same time as the variety dated 1787 with the *Indep et Liber* reverse. This uniface variety is not listed in the Atkins descriptions of evasions, although it has an obverse facing right with the same legend as described in #8. Your patron's item is illustrated in an article by Howard Kurth in the Numismatic Review, Vol. 1, No. 2, p. 54.

In my collection I have two different Auctori Plebis obverses with blank reverse (one is like yours). I also have two Auctori Plebis obverses with the *Hispaniola* reverse (only one is listed in Atkins). It is up to you as to whether publication is of interest. They are American inspired but were never used here. Crosby and Kurth say about all there is to know, but your patron might have other data. Die varieties of evasions are endless but this may have more appeal because its sister coin is American Inspired. All pieces are poorly struck.

I have retained your photo as it is a copy, but will return it if you wish.

Best wishes for 1974 when we should meet somehow.

Cordially,



Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah